

**DAIRY CATTLE:** Hokovit owner Jürg Hofmann speaks about alternatives to feeding lots of milk to calves

## “Six-month-old calves weigh 230 kg”

*Jürg Hofmann, from the company Hokovit, recommends giving calves milk only for nine weeks. In return, they are fed intensively from the very beginning. This can save around 500 Swiss francs in rearing costs per calf.*

INTERVIEW: SUSANNE MEIER

**Studies have shown that calves should be fed more intensively. Hokovit wants to implement this with the Super Heifer method. What's behind this plan?**



Twenty years of development and practical application both in Switzerland and abroad. The benchmarks of Hokovit's Super Heifer method are calves that are weaned after nine weeks, but fed intensively from the very beginning with Hokovit's special rearing feed and hay. They reach a live weight of 230 kg at the age of six months without becoming obese. They are in top physical condition, with optimal development of the rumen and villi of the rumen.



6 months old calves reared with the Hokovit method.

From the 7th month to the first calf, they are not given any concentrated feed, only protein-enriched roughage and the Hokovit Super Heifer Guard micronutrient premix.

Insemination takes place at 14 months and a live weight of 425 kg. They have their first calf at the ideal age of 23 months, at a live weight of 650 kg. This works extremely well, and you save around 500 Swiss francs in rearing costs for each calf.

The results are healthy, high-performing and long-lived dairy cows.

**Why do you believe that greater amounts of concentrated feed are more important than large quantities of milk?**

Calves are not supposed to become obese. But cow's milk contains 32% of fat in the dry solids! One kilogram of Hokovit-CALVISTART special rearing feed replaces five to six liters of cow's

milk, which also makes it about three times cheaper than milk. Concentrated feed, as is well known, promotes the crucial development of the rumen and villi of the rumen.

**How significant is colostrum?**

Colostrum in sufficient quantity and quality should be given as soon after birth as possible – that's really the name of the game in the calves' first few days and

weeks. For more safety in rearing, therefore, we have been saying for 30 years that a cow's colostrum should be enriched with our dried colostrum concentrate CALVICOL.

**Micronutrients play an important role at Hokovit. Which ones are particularly key for calves?**

CALVICOL colostrum and HOKOSTAR micronized vitamin-iron-electrolytes shortly after birth ensure immediate immunity and vitality following birth. CALVISTART yeast, herbal and plant extracts as well as colostrum in the HOKOVIT special rearing feed make for improved health, excellent feed conversion, high growth rates, as well as optimal rumen and villi of the rumen development. HOKOVIT Super Heifer Guard vitamins, trace elements with CALVISTART micronutrients supply breeding cattle with vital and protective substances from the 7th month until the first calf – and all without concentrated feed and minerals.